Amendments to Claims

Claims 1-37 (previously canceled)

38. (currently amended) A slider having ~~optimized~~ modified crown or camber curvature prepared from substrate material having an air-bearing side and a flex side, prepared by a process using a laser which produces a pulsed laser beam, the process comprising:

(A) applying the laser beam to the flex side of the substrate material; and

(B) varying the fluence of the laser beam to ~~optimize~~ modify the curvature in the substrate material, and controlling said fluence so that parallel tensile stress cracks are not produced in said substrate material.

39. (previously presented) A slider prepared by the process of claim 38, wherein fluence is controllably varied by changing the power output of the laser.

40. (previously presented) A slider prepared by the process of claim 38, wherein fluence is controllably varied by changing the spot size of the laser beam.

41. (previously presented) A slider prepared by the process of claim 40, wherein the spot size of the laser beam is varied by changing the position of the substrate material relative to the focal plane of the laser beam.

42. (previously presented) A slider prepared by the process of claim 40, wherein the spot size is controllably varied by changing the position of the focal plane of the laser beam relative to the substrate material.

43 (previously presented) A slider prepared by the process of claim 42, wherein the focal plane of the laser is moved relative to the substrate material by using at least one focusing lens which is attached to a movable mount.

44. (previously presented) A slider prepared by the process of claim 38, wherein the laser beam is conditioned with a beam expander that has adjustable beam expansion.

45. (previously presented) A slider prepared by the process of claim 38, wherein the substrate material is one or more rows of sliders, which are then separated to produce individual sliders.

46. (new) A slider having modified crown or camber curvature prepared from substrate material having an air-bearing side and a flex side, prepared by a process using a laser which produces a pulsed laser beam, said slider being free from parallel tensile stress cracks produced by said process, the process comprising:

(A) applying the laser beam to the flex side of the substrate material; and

(B) varying the fluence of the laser beam to modify the curvature in the substrate material.